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~~INFORMATION REPORT~~

CD NO.

COUNTRY **Malaya**~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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SUBJECT **The Tin Industry and General Conditions in Malaya**

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1. The situation up-country is not improving to the extent that the newspapers and the security forces would lead one to believe. In the areas surrounding Kuala Lumpur and Kota Bahru there is actual fighting. It has affected tin production only slightly, however, and there has been no sabotage in the mines of which the informant is an official.
2. The union leaders among the tin mine workers have gone underground. As a consequence, the laborers, most of whom are Chinese, are "sitting on the fence", waiting to see what will happen. It is believed that the Communists will gain in leadership when the situation in China becomes more composed. The informant has received no threats, nor have his men, but it is believed that the Chinese are paying off. Nothing is known of the organization of the terrorists but it is believed that they are only bandits who like to be called Communists because of the notoriety it gives them. The informant has been fired on once, and now travels in an armored car on land and by plane when traveling from one mine to another.
3. The squatters are no problem to the tin mines, but they represent the heart of the problem for Malaya itself. As for the security forces, they are not as well armed as the bandits, and it is believed that they have "thrown their Sunday punch".

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